

MICHIGAN



"PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF
PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES"

Elmer L. Cerano, *Executive Director*

**PROTECTION & ADVOCACY
SERVICE, INC.**

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Lansing

March 15, 2006

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1st Vice President
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Dear Local Government and Urban Policy Committee,

Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc. (MPAS) strongly supports HB 4138, the inclusive home design act. The bill proposes relatively minor changes to standard architectural features that dramatically increase access to housing for people with disabilities. Making a home accessible at the onset of construction is much more cost-effective than retro-fitting doorways, or making structural changes to other paths of travel. Expanding the breadth of the current laws related to accessible housing (the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act, and Fair Housing Act Amendments of 1988) to include single family homes is a key component to increasing affordable accessible housing options for Michigan citizens. Thank you for your consideration of our comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information.

Sincerely,

Collene Dabish
Public Policy & Outreach Specialist
Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc.



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